

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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|----------------|--|---------------------------------|------------------|------|
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Since 1951, there has been a state social insurance program (durzhavno obshchestveno osiguryavane) in operation in Bulgaria. Under this program, each employer is required to make regular payments to the social insurance fund, amounting to 12 percent of the basic wages paid to his employees. Social insurance benefits include sick pay, burial fees and maternity bonuses.

2. Sick pay benefits are paid to workers according to the following scale:

| <u>Period of Prior Employment</u> | <u>Benefits</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Three months or less | Nothing |
| Three months to three years | 50% of regular salary |
| Three to five years | 60% of regular salary |
| Five to seven years | 80% of regular salary |
| Seven years or more | 90% of regular salary |

3. Social insurance benefit payments are made to the worker by the employer for a maximum period of one year and three months. If at the end of this period, the worker is still incapacitated, he is given a physical examination by a Workers' Medical Board (Trudovo-Lekarska-Ekspertiza), which then determines the extent of his disability on a percentage basis. After this, the worker is given a pension based upon the extent of his disability. If the worker returns to his job prior to the expiration of the aforementioned maximum period, works for a minimum period of three months, and then falls ill again, he is still entitled to full sick pay benefits as specified above (i.e. for another one year and three months).

4. In case of the death of a worker, his family is paid 400 leva as a burial fee by the social insurance program. If a worker's dependent should die, the family is given only 200 leva as a burial fee.

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5. Under the national social insurance program, working mothers receive a maternity bonus of 160 leva for the first child, 240 leva for the second child, 320 leva for the third child, and 80 leva for each child thereafter.

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